



Introduced Version

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Legislative Council to establish an interim study committee to study the role of court-appointed mental health professionals to examine a defendant who is raising an insanity defense.

Alting

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20132778

2013

SR 2512/DI 84+



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Legislative Council to
2 establish an interim study committee to study the role of
3 court-appointed mental health professionals to examine a defendant
4 who is raising an insanity defense.

5 Whereas, Currently, courts are required to appoint two or three
6 competent, disinterested psychiatrists, physicians, or psychologists, at
7 least one of whom must be a psychiatrist;

8 Whereas, Psychologists have extensive training and experience in
9 diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders and in psychological
10 assessment;

11 Whereas, Research has shown that pairwise comparisons of
12 independent assessments for insanity arrive at the same conclusion
13 92% of the time, regardless of whether the evaluator is a psychiatrist or
14 a psychologist; and

15 Whereas, Psychologists have conducted insanity assessments for
16 decades, with many states allowing the judge to choose the evaluator
17 without regard to a specific ratio of qualified professionals: Therefore,

18 *Be it resolved by the Senate*
19 *of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*
20 :

21 SECTION 1. That the Legislative Council is urged to establish an
22 interim study committee to study whether courts should have the
23 flexibility to appoint psychologists, psychiatrists, or physicians in
24 insanity defense cases without regard to a specific ratio of qualified
25 mental health professionals.



1 SECTION 2. That the committee, if established, shall operate under
2 the direction of the Legislative Council and that the committee shall
3 issue such reports as directed by the council.

